

Preliminary Amendment

Applicant: Winthrop D. Childers et al.

Serial No.: Unknown (Parent Ser. No. 09/975,295)

Filed: Herewith (Parent Filing Date October 10, 2001)

Docket No.: 10971935-17

Title: INK DELIVERY SYSTEM ADAPTER

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-38.

Please add claims 39-72 as follows:

1-38. (Cancelled).

39. (New) An emulator for emulating a memory device to provide a source of signals for a printing system, the printing system having a controller that exchanges information with a memory device mounted to an ink container containing an initial ink, the emulator comprising:

an electrical signal source separate from the ink container for exchanging information with the controller; and

a flexible cable which electrically connects the electrical signal source to the controller.

40. (New) The emulator of claim 39, wherein the ink container contains a replacement ink different from the initial ink and wherein the electrical signal source includes information the printing system interprets as an ink volume associated with the replacement ink.

41. (New) The emulator of claim 39, further comprising an ink reservoir containing the replacement ink, the ink reservoir remotely located from the replacement source of signals.

42. (New) The emulator of claim 39, wherein the electrical signal source is a signal-providing circuit that enables the printing system to operate whenever an ink reservoir is coupled to the printing system.

43. (New) A replacement source of signals for a printing system, the printing system having a receptacle for receiving a first ink supply, a controller which exchanges information

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with a first memory device associated with the first ink supply, and an ink supply inlet fluidically connected to a printhead, the replacement source of signals comprising:

an electrical signal source for exchanging information about a replacement ink supply with the controller; and

a connector for electrically connecting the replacement source of signals to the controller.

44. (New) The replacement source of signals of claim 43, wherein the information storage device includes information regarding a volume of the replacement ink supply.

45. (New) The replacement source of signals of claim 43, wherein the information storage device contains a memory device which has a write portion which is adapted to be updated by the controller to provide an estimate of the volume of the replacement ink supply during usage of the replacement ink supply.

46. (New) The replacement source of signals of claim 43, further comprising a flexible cable electrically connecting the connector and the information storage device.

47. (New) The replacement source of signals of claim 43, further comprising a fluid outlet in fluid communication with the replacement ink supply.

48. (New) The replacement source of signals of claim 47, wherein the fluid outlet is adapted to be received by the ink supply inlet.

49. (New) The replacement source of signals of claim 47, wherein the fluid outlet is remotely located from the ink supply inlet.

50. (New) The replacement source of signals of claim 49, wherein the fluid outlet is fluidically connected to the ink supply inlet via a flexible fluid conduit.

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51. (New) The replacement source of signals of claim 43, wherein the information storage device is remotely located from the replacement ink supply,

52. (New) A portion of an ink supply configured to be installed into a printing system, the printing system having a receptacle to allow the coupling of an ink reservoir to the printing system, the portion comprising:

a source of signals that is configured to be coupled to the printing system separately from the ink reservoir.

53. (New) The portion of claim 52, further including an apparatus to enable coupling of the source of signals to the printing system while locating the source of signals separately from the ink container.

54. (New) The portion of claim 52, further including a flexible electrical cable for coupling the source of signals to the printing system.

55. (New) The portion of claim 52, further comprising a connector for coupling the source of signals to the printing system.

56. (New) The portion of claim 52, wherein the source of signals is an emulation device.

57. (New) The portion of claim 52, wherein the source of signals is a signal-providing circuit that enables the printing system to operate whenever a new ink supply is provided.

58. (New) The portion of claim 52, wherein the printing system includes a controller, the source of signals provides information to the controller indicative of an initial ink supply size, a coarse ink level, and a fine ink level.

59. (New) An ink supply configured to be installed into a printing system, the ink supply comprising:

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an ink reservoir including a fluidic apparatus for coupling the ink reservoir to the printing system; and

a source of signals including an apparatus for coupling the source of signals to the printing system separately from the ink reservoir.

60. (New) The ink supply of claim 59, wherein the printing system includes a receptacle for receiving ink containers, the fluidic apparatus is a fluid conduit to enable the ink reservoir to be located outside of the receptacle.

61. (New) The ink supply of claim 59, wherein the apparatus for coupling the source of signals to the printing system separately from the ink container includes a flexible cable.

62. (New) A method of providing ink to a printing system, the printing system including a receptacle including a fluid inlet that enables coupling an ink reservoir to the printing system, the method comprising:

providing a signal source; and

coupling the signal source to the printing system in an operation separate from any coupling of the ink reservoir to the fluid inlet.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the signal source is an emulator.

64. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising locating the signal source remotely from the receptacle.

65. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising providing signals from the signal source to the printing system that enable the printing system to operate whenever a new ink reservoir is coupled to the fluid inlet.

66. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising coupling an ink reservoir portion to the fluid inlet.

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67. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising performing multiple couplings of an ink reservoir to the fluid inlet while the signal source is installed.

68. (New) An ink supply configured to be installed into a printing system, comprising:
an ink container; and
a source of signals configured to be coupled to the printing system separately from the ink container.

69. (New) The ink supply of claim 68, wherein the ink container further comprises a leading cap, the leading cap secured on a leading end of the ink container relative to a direction of insertion into the ink container into the printing system.

70. (New) The ink supply of claim 69, wherein the ink container includes a fluid outlet and wherein the leading cap includes an aperture through which the fluid outlet protrudes.

71. (New) The ink supply of claim 68, wherein the ink container further comprises a trailing cap secured on a trailing end of the ink container relative to a direction of insertion of the ink container into the printing system, the trailing cap including a latch feature to secure the ink container within the printing system.

72. (New) The ink supply of claim 68, wherein the ink container further comprises a latch feature that extends downwardly relative to a gravitational frame of reference when the ink container is installed into the printing system.